

City of Gahanna

*200 South Hamilton Road
Gahanna, Ohio 43230*



Meeting Minutes

Monday, January 25, 2010

Immediately Following Previous Committees or

7:20 PM

Council Committee Rooms

Finance Committee

*David L. Samuel, Chair
Beryl D. Anderson
Thomas C. Evers
Shane Ewald
Thomas R. Kneeland
John R. McAlister
Nancy R. McGregor*

Members Absent: Thomas C. Evers

Members Present: David L. Samuel, Shane W. Ewald, Thomas R. Kneeland, John McAlister, Nancy R. McGregor and Beryl D. Anderson

Additional Attendees:

Karl Wetherholt; Mike Andrako; Mike Musser; Angel Mumma; Jennifer Teal; Grant Reveal; Kristen Treadway; Chief Murphy; Terry Emery; Dottie Franey; Brandi Braun; Sadicka White; Tom Weber; Isobel Sherwood; Brian Hoyt; Mayor Stinchcomb; from the Civil Service Commission, Katherine Essex, David Schroeder, Paul Leithart, and Stephen Renner; from the CVB, Karen Eylon and Laurie Jadwin; Press

ISSUES - From Council:

Civil Service Rules & Regulations

Samuel called the Finance Committee meeting for Monday, January 25, to order. Samuel said the first item on the agenda is the revision of the Civil Service Rules & Regulations; Civil Service members here tonight are Katherine Essex, David Schroeder, Paul Leithart, and Stephen Renner; if any of the members have comments we can open up the discussion with those.

Leithart said since I am the new chairman I will be glad to speak; we took the existing regulations and spent about 15 months going over them word for word; thanks to the Commission, and to Sherwood and Jernigan for all their work; we reduced the number of pages by making the document current with existing practices; we updated the language; we brought the rules into parity with the new Charter changes that were passed in November so we can, under the right circumstances, bypass our testing and go through an internal process to hire qualified candidates; those are the highlights. Samuel asked the Commission members if they had any additional comments and they said they concurred with the summary.

Samuel said Council received the Executive Summary of the changes to the rules and we were provided the Document of Rules that showed the changes; so we are ready to begin the discussion from Council. Ewald said how much time do we have to review this; we need to determine if we accept or deny the changes and process. Samuel said there is no urgency that I am aware of. Ewald said it is quite thick; I would like to read through it and then bring it back; we need to give it due diligence since they put so much work into the revision. McAlister said I am glad there are people that do this kind of thing; I thank them for their efforts. Anderson said I agree that we need to take the time to look at it; then review it further in committee. Weber said the essential changes are in Rule 4; it makes the changed process consistent with the Charter; the Charter language says basically the Commission, on the recommendation from Human Resources, can waive testing when no good tests for the position are available; streamlines the process; the State of Ohio has abandoned the use of all tests; this rule translates into a lot less testing; so take a close look at Rule 4. Kneeland said I would like to thank the Commission for working on this and look forward to adopting the appropriate legislation to implement it.

Recommendation: Return to Committee of the Whole in 2 weeks.

PENDING LEGISLATION:

ORD-0018-2010

TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AGREEMENT WITH THE GAHANNA CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU FOR THE 2010 CALENDAR YEAR FOR THE PROMOTION AND PUBLICITY OF THE CITY OF GAHANNA; AND TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY.

Samuel said next on the agenda is the contract renewal with the Gahanna Convention & Visitors Bureau (CVB); the contract and scope of services were provided in Council's information packet. Anderson said this issue was scheduled to be on the agenda for Development and Parks Committee, but I asked for this to be moved to the Finance agenda so all Council members could be involved. Samuel said attending our meeting from the CVB are Karen Eylon and Laurie Jadwin to offer comments on the contract and scope. Jadwin said the scope is essentially the same as previous ones; we tweaked it some; since the Gahanna Events have merged with us we have been working on what kind of organization we want to be; we had a retreat session in November and the Board of Directors came away from the 2 day retreat with our mission statement; it reads: The Gahanna Convention & Visitors Bureau (GCVB) is a 501(c) (6) non-profit organization funded by a local hotel tax and partner support whose mission is to promote Gahanna as a vibrant destination by connecting the people and places of our community, which contributes to economic prosperity.

Jadwin continued saying our objective is to attract visitors and have a positive effect in the community for all Gahanna residents; the scope of services is consistent with our mission statement with language added making it the same as later years; we appreciate the support to our organization and our Board of Directors from Council leaders; and we appreciate the opportunity to share what we do.

Kneeland said what is your biggest challenge going forward. Jadwin said that would be the economic challenge; it is surmountable but we have product challenges as well; we have erosion of products and it is difficult to cut through the clutter and stand out; at a recent expo we were up against AAA, Cruise Lines and Disney; yet the responses we received were very positive; even other communities offered positive comments and were even envious; we all need a visible asset to market and Creekside is our answer; we have been attracting visitors and it is our challenge to continue to develop the product and survive.

Weber said I have a question on a "whereas clause"; I think it is confusing to say the funding is 4% of the 6% collected; why don't they say what it really is; of a \$100 how much would you derive from it. White said they get 66% or 2/3 of the tax collected; what we say is they get 4% of the 6% levied; that is 2/3 of the 6% levy; it is just a different way to say it. McGregor said it reads 4% of "the" 6% collected; with the emphasis on "the" it makes more sense. Mumma said the "whereas clause" reads 4% of the 6%; it means we collect 6%; the CVB gets 2/3 of the levied rate; for every \$100 they would only get \$40 instead of \$60, so we use a conversion of 12; they get 8/12 of the 6%; it is really 4 points. Weber said your funding formula should be clearer. Mayor asked how do you want it worded. Mumma said we put the exact percentage in there because the 6% levied is the Ohio Revised Code. White said the equation is not clear. Mumma said we could put the percentage in parenthesis. Kneeland said we could show an example; would that be considered a substantial amendment to the scope. Sherwood said we could add the scope and amend the new agreement. Mumma said I will provide the actual percentages.

Ewald said thank you for your hard work; I would also like to make sure that Hoyt has the CVB cross-linked on the City's web site to go back to the City and to the calendar. Eylon said we would always welcome you if you would like to visit; I will get with Sherwood to schedule our annual report to you on the Council agenda. Anderson said I would like to also thank you for the work you are doing; it has been a pleasure to serve

on the board; you had a great retreat and represent good leadership for the people of Gahanna. Samuel said the same from me; I guess now you are getting started on the Blues and Jazz Festival. Samuel said our recommendation for second reading will be we amend the scope by substitution and clarify with the parenthetical 2/3 or 66% provided by Mumma; all Council members were ok with that.

Recommended for Substitution and Adoption

Community Improvement Corp. Rules

Sherwood said I have one additional item; Weber had requested that after the Community Improvement Corporation adopted changes to its rules that Council confirm the terms of the trustees; some of the terms were not clear; we would confirm these terms by Motion Resolution on the Council agenda.

Recommendation: Motion Resolution on Consent Agenda.

Meeting Adjourned.

Della Brandenberger, Reporting